

AIR GUARDIAN

Alaska Air Guard members return from duty overseas

A six-month deployment ends in time for Guardsmen to enjoy the holidays at home

By Capt. Candis Olmstead
176th Wing Public Affairs

Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing were home for the holidays after spending several months overseas in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

After deploying to Karshi Khanabad, Uzbekistan and Kandahar, Afghanistan in June to provide com-

bat search and rescue operations, there were a few swap-outs among deployed members in order to fulfill the six-month long mission without most members having to be gone longer than three months.

Two of the wing's HC-130s and the last 28 of more than 240 Guardsmen who supported the mission returned Dec. 22. An additional 80 personnel arrived in small groups via commercial airlines and military airlift earlier in December.

Extreme conditions—high temperatures and elevations, plus the almost constant mix of wind and sand—created challenges for people and aircraft. But they pulled through and got the job done.

Search and rescue missions included everything from nation-

building operations assisting injured Afghan nationals after local militia skirmishes, and retrieving Coalition forces wounded during conflicts with the Taliban, to humanitarian undertakings like picking up young children who had stepped on land mines.

During peacetime, search and rescue teams from the 210th Rescue Squadron accomplish more saves each year than any other military rescue unit world-wide—generally about three times as many. They perform an average of 120 missions and 80 saves per year.

Deployment Details:

Who: A total of about 250 wing members deployed, with about 125 gone at any given time.

What/Where: Deployed to the Central Command Area of Operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Wing members were at two deployed locations:

- HC-130s and about 75 of our personnel in Karshi Khanabad, Uzbekistan
- HH-60 helicopters and about 50 of our personnel in Kandahar, Afghanistan

When:

- Federally activated Feb. 25
- Received mobilization orders June 12
- 1st departure was June 15
- Swap-outs were in September

Details:

- Search & Rescue Missions: 35
- Saves: 48
- Assists: 7



Staff Sgt. Kathryn Baines

Staff Sgt. Robert Meacham greets his enthusiastic children, Carly and Ty, after a five-day journey home from the desert.



Staff Sgt. Kathryn Baines

Senior Master Sgt. Allan Jackson holds his returning wife, Technical Sgt. Barbara Jackson

Spotlight on the Adjutant General

Getting personal with Brig. Gen. Campbell

By Master Sgt. Jennifer Keese
144th Airlift Squadron

Most members of the Alaska National Guard have heard of Brig. Gen. Craig Campbell, the state Adjutant General. But few know more than small details about the leader of our organization. Let's take a closer look at the TAG.

A native of Springfield, Mass., Campbell struck out for Oklahoma at age 18 to attend the University of Tulsa.

Though today he stands at the top of his profession, Campbell freely admits to initially struggling in college. As he acclimated to the southwestern heat, he also adapted to the academic environment and graduated with a political science degree.

1984 found Campbell stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, married with two children and a mortgage. He received orders to go to Scott AFB, Ill., but didn't want to leave Alaska. He decided to step out of his "comfort zone" and leave the Air Force. He joined the Guard

and also found work as a civilian.

Remarkably, Campbell ascended to the top of the ranks as a traditional Guardsman. In fact, until he became the Adjutant General, he had only worked as a full-time Guardsman for one year. But he took steps to ensure that, as a traditional Guardsman, he had the most enriching experience possible. He spent a year at the Naval War College, volunteered to be the executive support officer, and headed the long-range planning process for the Alaska National Guard, duties which helped him build a resume and reinforce his reputation as a leader within the Alaska National Guard.

Complementing his work for the Guard, Campbell worked full time in the civilian world and served in political positions as well. From 1986 to 1996 he served three terms on the Anchorage Assembly, including two stints as chairman. He was also a member of the Matanuska Electric Association's board of directors.

Campbell said that, as the Adjutant General, he hopes to build the Guard into a force that will be tremendously relevant to the state of Alaska and the



Brig. Gen. Craig E. Campbell
Alaska Adjutant General

nation. He sees the Guard doing new and different missions much like its absorption of the 611th Air Control Squadron, which controls the Alaska NORAD Region Air Defense Sector in Anchorage. He envisions Guardsmen manning the satellite monitoring and early warning ballistic missile site at Clear Air Force Base and manning the missile defense site at Fort Greely. He believes there is new energy in the Guard, which will present a military force that is full of pride, strong in morale, motivated, and secure in its future.

Fuel Your Future

Who do you know?

Alaska National Guard

The 176th Wing needs your help filling our 220 unit vacancies!

- We have a 90% success rate enlisting referrals from Guard members!
- Without your referrals, our recruiters process 30 packages for one successful enlistment.

Who do you know that will enjoy the education, benefits, and pride of serving our state and nation?

**Recruiters: 249-1282
or 800-642-6228**

Do you have news to share?

We welcome articles and captioned photos relevant to members of the 176th Wing. Submissions must be accurate in fact, and will be edited for clarity and length. Articles will be published as space permits. Submissions are due on Sunday of the UTA prior to the month the article will be published.

Submit articles as Microsoft Word attachments via e-mail. Photographs must be 300 dpi TIF or JPG images, also submitted as attachments via e-mail. Please send to both:
candis.olmstead@akanch.ang.af.mil and
kathryn.baines@akanch.ang.af.mil.

We may be contacted at (907) 249-1342. The office is manned with Traditional Guardsmen, so please leave a message.

The AIR GUARDIAN is the official newsletter of the 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard. It is published monthly by members of the wing's public affairs office. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Air Force, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

WING COMMANDER

Brig. Gen. Gene Ramsay

PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

Capt. Candis Olmstead
Staff Sgt. Kathryn Baines
Senior Airman John Callahan
Senior Airman Kimberly Glasco

MULTIMEDIA STAFF

Senior Master Sgt. Paul Charron
Master Sgt. Michael Blume
Tech. Sgt. Nanette Martinez
Staff Sgt. Shannon Oleson
Staff Sgt. Alan Swircenski
Staff Sgt. Asia Gile
Senior Airman Kitty Greene

Aerial Port Flight: Two-Tango-Twos moving cargo around the clock

By Senior Airman John T. Callahan
176th Wing Public Affairs

On a busy base, one of the busiest shops is Kulis' 50-person Aerial Port Flight. A beehive of activity, the flight stands ready around the clock, seven days a week to get people and cargo

Mike Lajcsak, a 23-year-old part-time UAA student and an Aerial Port member for the last year and a half. Lajcsak said he was drawn to Aerial Port by the flexible hours and the critical role the unit plays in the Air Guard's over-all mission.

who load the planes," he said. "And it's true that's one of our primary roles." But Aerial Port is also critical in enabling other units to fulfill their training mission.

"Let me give you an example," he continued. "Twice a week, the 144th (Airlift Squadron) sends planes out to drop cargo at Malemute (Drop Zone, on Fort Richardson.) And every time, it's Aerial Port guys who go out, get that dropped cargo, and bring it back."

"Aerial delivery is a lot more complicated than it looks," Lajcsak added. "The air can be going one way at ground level, and another way higher up. The aircrews have to stay totally sharp, and the only real way to practice is to actually do it. And for that, they depend on us."

In mid-February, 33 of the unit's 48 members will travel to Travis Air Force Base in California for an Air Mobility Command inspection. Houghton expressed confidence that his troops are up to the challenge.

Lajcsak agreed. "The active duty (forces) need to know they can depend on us," he said. "We'll show them they can."



Senior Airman John Callahan

Master Sgt. Rudy Turnbough directs and assists with the positioning of an external power generator. This big transportable beast provides power to aircraft on whatever airfield they call home.

where they need to go.

It may come as a surprise that, beyond a small core of supervisors, the vast majority of the unit is made up of traditional Guardsmen willing to work non-standard hours to get the job done.

"When you think about it, Aerial Port offers a pretty good opportunity for someone like a college kid who can come in during the evening, go out to Malemute and retrieve some cargo, and get a day's pay out of it," said the flight's commander, Maj. Glenn R. Houghton.

One such airman is Senior Airman

"I like the fact that we play such an important part: getting the people and cargo where they need to be. I like the idea of being depended on," he said.

That role goes beyond the obvious, said Hughton.

"Most people think of Aerial Port Flight as 'the guys



Senior Airman John Callahan

Senior Airman Mike Lajcsak, part-time Guardsman, part-time student, works the runway on a winter's afternoon.

Awards and Decorations

Meritorious Service Medal

Lt Col Martha S. Fink 176 WG

Air Force Commendation

Lt Col Martha S. Fink 176 WG

Maj Richard A. Cavens 176 WG

SSgt Barbara J. McAfee 144 AS

SSgt David A. Victory 176 WG



Retired

Kulis Senior Staff Judge Advocate, Lt. Col. Martha Susan Fink retired after 21 years of military service. Fink, an outdoor enthusiast, was presented, along with other momentos, a diamond willow walking stick, by the 176th Wing.



Senior Airman Kimberly Glasco

CCAF 2003 Graduates

2dLt Reiki Ward
SMSgt Patricia Cordell
SMSgt Rudolph Kula, Jr.
SMSgt Angela Mattila
MSgt Paul Barendregt
MSgt Todd Davis
MSgt Julie Harvey
MSgt Lance Jordan
MSgt Douglas Lofthouse
MSgt Douglass Patchin
MSgt Patricia Pierce
MSgt Edward Vannatta
TSgt Jennifer Assenmacher
TSgt Jerry Davis
TSgt Shawn Gannon
TSgt Barbara Jackson
TSgt Terry Kurth
TSgt Ricardo Montana
TSgt Paula Parrish
TSgt Stephanie Skinner
TSgt Anthony Stoddard
TSgt Claudia Walton
TSgt Andrew Workman
TSgt Desiron Young
SSgt Kevin Asher
SSgt Mark Fletcher
SSgt Tracy Glaze
SSgt Carlos Gonzalez
SSgt Natking Mota
SSgt Latisha Moulds
SSgt Travis Oaks
SSgt Mark Ramler
SSgt Johnathan Tucker
SSgt Amanda Ward
SrA Kristine Laughlin

2003 CCAF class is the largest graduating class in Wing history

By Master Sgt. Frank Shaffer
206th Combat Communications Squadron

On Dec. 7th, the 176th Wing awarded 35 Associate Degrees, making the Class of 2003 the largest CCAF graduating class in the Alaska Air National Guard since the first degree was earned in 1980.

The ceremony also recognized 19 members who earned scores of 90% or better on their CDC's during 2003. Kudos also went out to 34 airmen for their superior achievement as Distinguished, Honor, or Top Graduates from Air Force formal schools.

According to the guest speaker, William Petrozzi, Coordinator of the State Alaska Troops to Teachers program, "Graduating from the CCAF is a continuation of the highest tradition of the Air Force Enlisted Corps."

The proud graduates were joined in celebration by senior leadership with Brig. Gen. Ramsay and Chief Master Sgt. Jacobson, presenting the diplomas.

A special thanks to the Kulis Senior Enlisted and NCOA Graduates Association for providing funding for the ceremony's reception.

To find out what it takes to earn a CCAF associates degree, check with your unit training manager, or the helpful folks in Force Development at 249-1371.



Senior Airman Kimberly Glasco

Congratulations to the CCAF Class of 2003. The class of 35 graduates was three times larger than any CCAF class in Kulis history. For a full list of graduates, see side bar above.



myPay users to receive electronic W-2s

The end of the calendar year is fast approaching and that means the inevitable; No, not death...Taxes.

Military members, retirees and DoD civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from the *myPay* secure website at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

If you have a customized *myPay* PIN, you will not receive a hardcopy W-2. In the event you do not receive a hardcopy W-2, you'll be required to use *myPay* to receive it. If you do not have a *myPay* PIN, you may contact the Finance office at 249-1422 or acquire one on the *myPay* home page.

Military Pay Calculator

National Guard members can calculate their drill pay at the website, Military.com. Users can select their pay grade, their minimum Time in Service and the number of drill periods (note: one drill period is four hours), and their total drill pay will be calculated. The calculator can be found at: www.military.com/Resources

What's for lunch?

With the ORI quickly approaching us, the Services Flight will not be preparing hot meals for the next 6 months. The reason for this change is the additional training that needs to be accomplished in the areas of mortuary affairs, field billeting, fitness and recreation, as well as CONOPS and NBC training.

I apologize for the inconvenience that this may cause you and your units. MREs will be available during the normal meal times on the UTA weekends.

We look forward to providing you a hot cooked meal on the Aug UTA weekend.

Senior Master Sgt Allan J. Jackson,
Superintendent, 176 SVF

You are invited

Welcome Home Celebration

**2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 10th
Hangar 4**

**Celebrating the return of 176th
Wing members who have
deployed since 9/11 in support
of
Operation Iraqi Freedom
and Enduring Freedom**



Get Revved Up

Experience the thrill of Hillberg Snowmachining Jan. 16, 23, and 30 at 5:30 p.m. and Jan. 18, 24, 25, 30, and 31 at 1 p.m. for \$30 per person. To make reservations, call 753-2378.



You should Know...

New nametag guidance

Effective Jan. 1, the new silver nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket. The nametag will also be worn on all pull-over sweaters but not on the cardigan. For more information, contact the Military Personnel Flight or check the AF Personnel Center website at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil

TRICARE for traditionals

The 2004 defense authorization may open TRICARE to about 170,000 inactive reservists who are unemployed or have no employer-provided coverage. To enroll, the uninsured reservists would have to pay an extra premium on top of co-payments and deductibles. Per year, the premium will be about \$420 for self coverage, and \$1,440 for a family. Already passed by the House and Senate, the bill would become law with President Bush' signature.



Duty Calls

Upcoming UTA dates

Month:	UTA:	Pay date:
January	10-11	22nd
Jan/Feb	1/31-2/1	12th
March	6-7	TBD

Away in a hangar

Children, parents celebrate holidays at children's Christmas party

By Senior Airman John Callahan
176th Wing Public Affairs

On a cold, snowy Saturday in December, laughter and light filled Kulis' new fuel hangar as more than 100 children took part in the 176th Wing's annual children's Christmas party.

First staged in 1995, the children's Christmas party has become an annual wing tradition. Every year a different unit volunteers to organize the party, rounding up donations from individuals and groups and using the funds to put together a slate of cheery, holiday-oriented fun and games for the kids. This year the Wing's Financial Management Office stepped up to the plate, with Master Sgt. Debra Hall, the office's supervisory financial technician, overseeing the effort.

Children who came to the Dec. 22 event found the hangar full of holiday cheer awaiting them just off the flightline. They made wreaths, necklaces and tree decorations from construction paper, Christmas tree refrigerator magnets, gift bags, holiday tiaras, picture frames and more. The party also featured games for the kids, a table full of goodies brought by the parents and an eight-foot-long stocking stuffed with toys donated by the Elmendorf office of the Armed Services YMCA.



Santa (who bears a striking resemblance to Master Sgt. Gerald "Mac" McAleavey) and his team landed on base Saturday and were escorted, lights blazing and sirens screaming, to Hangar 4 by the Kulis Fire Department. Acting as Santa's helper was finance troop, Technical Sgt. Margaret Krize, also known by her elfin name, Crumpet.

In addition, all the partygoers got the chance to have their pictures taken with "Santa" and an "elf" and left the party with a Christmas "goodie bag" stuffed with stickers, pencils and small toys.

Hall expressed gratitude for all the volunteers who helped throw the

party, and all the individuals and groups that donated money to help make it possible.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
...and to all a good night!



176th Wing
Kulis Air National Guard Base
5005 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-1998

Prsrt Std
US Postage Paid
Anchorage, Alaska
Permit 838